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### Cambodian Youth Engage in Democratic and Good-Governance Process

Siem Reap Province, Cambodia  
December 07, 2008



*Thay Chreb, an attendee of the democracy training course in Siem Reap, presents the results of a group discussion on the judiciary in Cambodia.*

More than 40 young Cambodians attended a four-week course in Siem Reap Province in December designed to educate youth about democratic principles. The course, called the Advanced Democracy Seminar, was funded by the United States through USAID and organized by the Youth Council of Cambodia. More than half of the trainees were women and under the age of 20.

The YCC seminar covered three main topics – parliamentary democracy in Cambodia, youth participation in democracy and good governance – and

targeted people between the ages of 18 to 23 years old.

Leang Lun, a 21-year-old freshman business major from Build Bright University in Siem Reap, said he was very pleased to join the training. He had heard about the course before but never had a chance to attend one until this month. “It was a very good training where I was able to learn about democratic concepts,” he said.

Thay Chreb, a 16-year-old student from Samdech Auv secondary school in Siem Reap, said it was her first time attending this sort of training. “I learned a lot, like the duties of a Khmer citizen, free and fair elections, human rights, judicial power, and roles and responsibilities of leaders,” she said.

To date, YCC has successfully completed 438 ADS training courses throughout Cambodia, with 22,364 youths participating, 8,646 of whom were women. The training program works to develop a code of ethics that young people can apply in their everyday lives. It also aims to provide them with a better understanding of democratic institutions and the important role of citizens in good government. The trainings provide valuable instruction that attendees would not otherwise receive in their formal education. USAID has been supporting Advanced Democracy Seminar training in Cambodia since 2005.